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Appropriations Committee the State of Connecticut

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I support keeping the Kensington Hatchery operational and removing it from The list of cuts proposed in the governor's budget because this hatchery generates more money for our state than it costs, and it provides unique benefits that would be lost forever.

A 2011 study by the Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis at UCONN reported that \$38 in economic activity is generated by every \$1 Connecticut spends on natural resources.

Decreased fish stocking results in less angler hours, less tourism, less revenue for small business and therefore less tax and license revenue for CT. The current stocking programs generate approximately \$ 60 million in state revenue. The Closing of Kensington would be poor economic policy, and valuable asset loss to the state of Connecticut. Kensington provides unique assets to the state in the form of valuable genetic strains of Atlantic Salmon, salmon eggs to the Salmon in Schools program active in over 60 schools statewide and affecting over 6000 students; the successful Seeforellen Brown trout strain will be lost, as well as the Trout in the Classroom program that Serves 110 schools and over 9000 school children.

These programs operate due to the unique facilities at Kensington not available at the other state hatcheries. The programs are vital to our states recreational, environmental, educational and economic well being.

Sincerely,

Charles McCaughtry